

Summary and Recommendations

From the cartographic data presented above, it can be seen that the development of the blocks comprising the project area is complex and has involved many changes which occurred over a relatively short period of time. The substantial amount of "engineering" has obviously resulted in extensive modifications to the original shoreline of the Christiana River. Together with the many changes of ownership of the properties fronting on the river, each of which engendered changes in the facilities located inland, these modifications are likely to have resulted in intensive impacts to, and in many cases resulted in the obliteration of all traces of, early cultural resources which may have been present. Integrity will, therefore, most likely be a limiting factor in the potential significance of any resources within the study area. However, a brief walk-over of the project area indicates that certain portions of the waterfront appear to have maintained fairly high integrity, notably the areas associated with the Harlan and Hollingsworth ship-building industry.

The specific project area planned as the Christina Pedestrian Walkway may impact some of these cultural resources, however; as has been found in other portions of the waterfront, it is likely that much of the walkway will be built over recent "made land", which has been found to cover earlier developed land, or to lie upon former wetlands and/or open water. Archaeological investigations within the study area must be approached using an area by area strategy. As has been stated before, hand excavation would obviously be a futile approach throughout the 1800 linear feet of the proposed walkway. Deep machine trenching, however, is not only an accepted method of determining the nature of buried deposits but may be the only possible manner in which such material could be explored. Accordingly, MAAR Associates, Inc. recommends that the cultural resource management field objectives of this project be addressed by carefully placed archaeological trenching. Due to anticipated hazardous waste products, the field investigations should be undertaken in full compliance with OSHA regulations for such areas. It is possible that additional construction monitoring may also be determined to be appropriate.

It is proposed that MAAR Associates, Inc. assign HAZMAT-trained Field Supervisor and Field Technicians to work with an appropriate size backhoe to cut, examine and refill trenches within the study area. Based on the Background Research undertaken to date, a total of six working days should allow for a sufficiently large "window" to provide base line data for these other waterfront blocks. Machine trenching will support or challenge the assumption that the major portion of the Christina waterfront consists of made land but will also seek information concerning the integrity of documented resources, thus providing a ready means of determining if potential historically-significant resources remain intact within the project ROW beneath the current ground surface.

Following exposure by the backhoe, Field Technicians will explore any evidence of cultural activity by appropriate hand methods including the clearing of overburden to allow for measurements and close observations, using acceptable safety standards. Photographic records will be taken of the side walls of all open trenches and both textual and illustrated documentation will be made of any potentially-significant cultural resource noted within the open trenches. Upon

completion of recording activities, open trenches will be backfilled. No collection of artifacts will be undertaken during this phase of the investigation.

It is proposed that a series of linear trenches at a distance of approximately 20 feet from the edge of the Christina River would not impact any current land use activity and could be completed within a short period of time. Trenches will generally be placed judgementally across exposed areas within the project ROW. However, as is obviously appropriate, trench locations will have to be adjusted to areas not currently covered by buildings or obviously subjected to recent disturbance. It is recommended that trenches be excavated as follows:

- 1) Two trenches between Market Street and Shipley Street.
- 2) One trench between Shipley Street and the building currently occupied by Berger Brothers Furniture
- 3) Three trenches in the Wesley Realty Company property between the Avenue of the Arts and Tatnall Street
- 4) A trench east of the building which formerly served as the Boiler House for the Harlan and Hollingsworth Shipyard
- 5) Two trenches in that segment of the ROW lying between the Christiana River and the Delaware DOT and Wilmington DPW Buildings.
- 6) One trench between the Christiana River and the Wilmington Rowing Club Building.